

called upon, and we have met with much kindness and hospitality amongst the Smiths, Eatons, Summervilles & so on. They recognized Martha immediately by your face, and many of them are related to your brother Joseph's wife. They have flourishing schools. George Eaton was elected Representative by 50 votes in this County on the 5th.—a reduced maj. one half.

The Southern part of this state is settling rapidly with a most desirable population. The soil is generally kindly and productive and it is healthy, and the water good. It is also cheap, and hence its settlement. But in the northern parts of the State, on the rivers and in the valleys, the lands are described as very fertile, but unhealthy, and are settling with foreigners, and an inferior class of people.

There is little to encourage a liberal and enlightened Statesman in Arks. at present. The Government and all its offices are, and have been, in the hands of men who have recommended themselves more for zeal and party drill in democracy than integrity and efficiency in their public conduct. Hence the State has been involved in an enormous debt of 4 mils. The internal improvement fund of 500,000 acres of land, frittered away amongst the Counties and the State has enacted in her Constitution that there shall be no banks. There is then shavings at the rate of 25 per cent—10 per cent per contract is legal, and if usury is practised, the excess of interest only, is forfeited. The Seminary fund is gone. The taxes are very high, and democracy is still in the ascendant. But those of us who are settling here, live in better hopes and in a pecuniary respect we have much to encourage us, as compared with Carolina.

The Cotton crop will be a fair one, in South Arkansas, but in the South a worse failure than last year. It commands 11 and 12 cents at Camden, at present.

We are highly gratified to hear of your elevation at the helm of Government, and hope that your usual good success will attend you.

*To Susan Washington Graham.*

A.

Washington City,

Aug. 20th, 1850.

I have neglected writing you several days longer than I intended. Thomas Witherspoon has left me, and gone to the Virginia